

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6760

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EC

SUBJECT: REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S MONTREAL SPEECH

REF: QUITO 5915

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE KISSINGER SPEECH WAS PROMINENT BUT ROUTINE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN EDITORIAL -- THE ONLY COMMENT TO DATE -- IN EL COMERCIO OF QUITO (REF A) AND A MISLEADING HEADLINE IN LEFTIST EXPRESO OF GUAYAQUIL. THE EDITORIAL CRITICIZED WHAT IT SAID WAS THE IMPLIED THREAT OF MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL CONFRONTATION IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE AT THE FORTHCOMING LOS CONFERENCE. IT URGED THE UNITED STATES TO "TAKE A SECOND STEP" NOW THAT IT HAS MOVED AWAY FROM THE 12-MILE LIMIT, AND AGREE TO THE 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT AS THE FINAL SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

2. EXPRESO USED THE SPANISH NEWS AGENCY EFE COVERAGE UNDER THE HEADLINE, "'TWO HUNDRED PATRIMONIAL MILES, OR THE USE OF THE NAVY': KISSINGER." THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF THE ARTICLE, UNDER THE BYLINE OF SANTIAGO PEREZ DIAZ, QUOTES KISSINGER: "THE NAVY IS ADEQUATE MEANS TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS" AT SEA.

3. THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH HAS CAUSED GREAT SPECULATION
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AND COMMENT AMONG GOE OFFICIALS. FOR THE MOST PART THE

REACTION HAS BEEN POSITIVE WITH ECUADOREANS EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT THE US IS INEVITABLY MOVING TOWARD THE JUST POSITION LONG EXPOUNDED JURIDICALLY BY ECUADOR.

4. SUB-SECRETARY FOR FISHERIES, CAPITAN ETIEL RODRIGUEZ, WAS ALMOST EUPHORIC IN HIS COMMENTS ON THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ABOUT EXTENDING THE 200-MILE LIMIT AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THIS MOVE WOULD GREATLY IMPROVE US-ECUADOREAN RELATIONSHIPS. EMBASSY OFFICERS REMINDED HIM THAT THE SECRETARY WAS COMMITTED TO SEEKING CHANGES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT THIS MIGHT NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED FOR SOME TIME, PERHAPS NOT UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT TUNA FISHING SEASON.

5. AMBASSADOR RAFAEL GARCIA VELASCO, LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL ON LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS, WAS PLEASED WITH INITIAL REPORTS OF THE SPEECH AND STATED HIS INTENT TO STUDY IT CAREFULLY. HE LAUDED PARTICULARLY THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON THE NEED TO PLACE THE RESOURCES OF THE HIGH SEA UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONTROL AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS IN REACHING GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING ON RATIONALLY SHARING THE SEAS RESOURCES AND IN CONSERVING THEM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
BREWSTER

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